

REMARKS

In order to advance prosecution, claims 1-13 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 14-31, drafted to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art.

The new claims are limited to armor assemblies that include a slanted armor layer made of a brittle material selected from PMMA and epoxy resin. None of the prior art of record discloses such an armor assembly. In particular, the reference to Perry relates to the possibility of providing a slanted layer made of aramid fabric bonded to ceramic with an adhesive epoxy resin, as disclosed at column 2, lines 29-41 of that reference. It should be noted that the epoxy resin does not form an armor layer.

The applicant has found that the materials now defined in the claims provide exceptionally good results, apparently due to the fact that, in addition to being brittle, they are characterized by a damage velocity that is lower than the projectile velocity. This feature allows the brittle material to exert deflecting forces on the projectile all along the projectile's trajectory inside the assembly.

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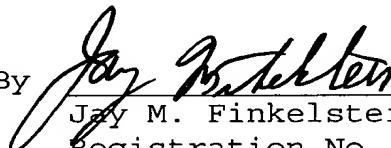
Accordingly, it is submitted that the newly filed claims distinguish patentably over the prior art of record and it is therefore asked that these claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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